

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SSC-01 /031 W

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R 152133Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1062

C O N F I D E N T I A L O T T A W A 3 7 1 9

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA

SUBJ: MP FRANCIS FOX NAMED SOLICITOR GENERAL

REF: OTTAWA 3705

1. FRANCIS FOX ON SEPT 14 WAS NAMED SOLICITOR
GENERAL. FOLLOWING IS RELEVANT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

2. LIBERAL MP - ARGENTEUIL-DEUX-MONTAGNES. BORN
DEC 2, 1939 AT MONTREAL. EDUCATED AT COLLEGE JEAN
DE BREBEUF; UNIV. OF MONTREAL; HARVARD AND OXFORD.
MARRIED WITH ONE SON. A LAWYER. MEMBER QUEBEC BAR.
ELECTED RHODES SCHOLAR FOR PROV OF QUEBEC, 1964.
SPECIAL ASST TO MIN OF CONSUMER AND CORPORATE
AFFAIRS, 1968-69 AND TO PRIME MINISTER 1970-72.
FIRST ELECTED TO HOUSE OF COMMONS GEN ELEC 1972.
APPOINTED PARL SECRETARY TO MIN OF JUSTICE AND
ATTORNEY GENERAL, OCT 1975.

3. COMMENT: FOX IS AS FLUENTLY BILINGUAL AS IS PRIME
MINISTER TRUDEAU. AND, PROBABLY AS BRIGHT AND
INTELLECTUALLY ALERT. HE IS FRIENDLY TO EMBASSY
OFFICERS AND CAN BE EXTREMELY CANDID AND A GOOD
SOURCE OF INFORMATION. HE HAS BEEN A LOYAL QUEBEC
FEDERALIST, SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, AND HAS NOT,
FOR EXAMPLE, JOINED WITH SERVE JOYAL AND PIERRE
DEBANE IN OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
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HANDLING OF THE AIR TRAFFIC DISPUTE. UNTIL
DEBANE AND JOYAL'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE GOVERNMENT,

THE THREE WERE CONSIDERED AMONG THE RISING STARS
IN THE QUEBEC CAUCUS.
ENDERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA03719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760348-1088
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760958/aaaabxlq.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 3705
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MP FRANCIS FOX NAMED SOLICITOR GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CA, (FOX, FRANCIS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006